

Arlington Special Town Meeting — Main Motion

ARTICLE NO. 5

Dated: May 3, 2024

I, Sarah McKinnon, do hereby submit the following Main Motion under Article 5 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Voted:

RESOLUTION FOR A CEASEFIRE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Arlington recognizes that all human life is precious, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, religious views, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, citizenship, age, ancestry, sexual orientation and/or ability/disability, and that the targeting of civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law; and,

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, at least 1,200 Israelis and 33,000 Palestinians have been killed, and civilians have been deliberately targeted and continue to suffer greatly; and,

WHEREAS, hostages continue to be held captive without regard to their legal and human rights; and that thus far, the only successful effort to secure the release of a large number of hostages was through an agreed upon ceasefire in November 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the ongoing violence has also led to the displacement of more than 135,000 civilians in Israel and 90,000 civilians in Lebanon; and,

WHEREAS, the ongoing military campaign and blockade of Gaza has caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, including the repeated displacement of more than 1.9 million people, the overwhelming destruction of the healthcare system and civilian infrastructure, and widespread hunger and famine; and,

WHEREAS, international organizations such as Amnesty International, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Rescue Committee, and many others, have made a call for a ceasefire in order to avert further loss of civilian life and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law; and,

WHEREAS, the continuing violence undermines the international order, has already killed at least four US military personnel, is central to a series of escalations that endangers civilians and US military personnel, and risks a wider war; and,

WHEREAS, taxes paid by Arlington residents are contributing to the ongoing violence and humanitarian suffering of Palestinian civilians; and,

WHEREAS, Arlington's Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish, Muslim, and Arab residents, among others, are experiencing trauma, grief, shock, and fear, compounded by increased incidents of Islamophobia, antisemitism and anti-Palestinian hate, both nationally and locally; and,

WHEREAS, we, as members of the Arlington community, must first acknowledge the particular and directly experienced pain, suffering, and anger of those among us who are most impacted by the current circumstances in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, and also recognize the clear impact on all

members of the Arlington community as we witness the increasing scale of violence and suffering in the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Arlington supports an immediate and permanent ceasefire across all of Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Arlington unequivocally condemns deliberate attacks on civilians and thereby calls for the release of all hostages and the uninhibited provision of life-saving humanitarian aid to Gaza; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Arlington supports a diplomatic solution for Palestinians and Israelis based upon the values of dignity, equity, justice, and international law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Arlington urges the Biden Administration, the Senate, and the House of Representatives to commit to an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the immediate provision of all life-saving aid, and a diplomatic solution for Palestinians and Israelis based upon international law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the offices of The President of the United States, Joseph Biden, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey, and Congresswoman Katherine Clark; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through the passing of this resolution, this Town Meeting collectively condemns all forms of racism, bigotry, and discrimination, and furthermore, that we extend our support to members of our Arlington community who are affected by this crisis, and furthermore, that we reaffirm our commitment to those bodies in Arlington which have specifically been created to foster a more equitable, just and liveable community for all in Arlington and beyond.

Comment: There are two changes to the resolution from the version shared with the Arlington Human Rights Commission: (1) removing the text “neighboring countries” (“the West Bank, and Israel, ~~and neighboring countries~~”) for reasons of scope, and (2) removal of “the US Agency for International Development (USAID)” from the list of “international organizations” based on feedback from the Arlington Human Rights Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ **Sarah McKinnon**

Sarah McKinnon, Precinct 20

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____